MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 MAY 1982

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- Thirty thousand Iraqi troops stationed in Khorramshahr have completely surrendered, putting up very little resistance, IRNA reported on 24 May. The report said the city is now on the verge of complete liberation, with those Iraqis who have not surrendered fleeing in all directions. An earlier military communique carried by Tehran radio reported that Iranian forces had completely surrounded Khorramshahr. It also noted that the Iraqi commander of the city had been killed. Announcing that Iranian forces had taken up positions on the eastern side of the Shatt al-'Arab, the communique claimed that all strategic roads entering the city, including the Khorramshahr-Shalamcheh and Khorramshahr-Ahvaz highways, are under Iranian control. The communique called on Iraqi soldiers in Khorramshahr to surrender or face annihilation.

Over the weekend, Tehran radio carried a military communique announcing that Iranian forces had launched an offensive on the evening of 22 May in order to liberate the Kushk region and the areas west and northwest of Khorramshahr. The radio later reported that Iranian forces had captured the Pol-e Now bridge and thus were able to reach the Shatt al-'Arab.

During the offensive the Iranians "totally destroyed" Iraqi forces in the Kushk region and captured the border garrison of Kushk, according to a Guards Corps and armed forces communique carried by Tehran radio. Thirty-five tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed and "very heavy casualties" were inflicted on three Iraqi border guards brigades and a special forces brigade, the communique said. It also claimed three Iraqi planes were shot down in the Abadan and Khorramshahr sector on 23 May. Tehran radio later reported that 2,650 Iraqis had been captured during the offensive.

Iranian forces, together with Iraqi mujahidin, occupied the Iraqi town of Halabcheh, according to another Tehran radio report. The radio claimed that an army information and security organization building was damaged and a number of Iraqis were killed during the operation.

According to an Iraqi Armed Forces communique carried by Baghdad radio, on the evening of 22 May Iranian forces attempted to enter Khorramshahr from the north but suffered heavy losses when they were intercepted by Iraqi troops. Following this effort, the Iranians attempted to storm Khorramshahr using two military columns. The communique said Iraqi forces confronted the Iranian columns and inflicted "grave losses."

Iraqi Denial -- An authoritative Iraqi spokesman dismissed reports that there are regular Arab forces in Iraq, INA reported. However, he reaffirmed that volunteers from Jordan and the YAR are in Iraq with the consent of their governments. Iraq considers any Arab country's readiness to participate in the battle against Iranian aggression as being consistent with the joint Arab defense pact, the spokesman added.

Iraq

Whenever Egyptian President Husni Mubarak takes one step toward the Arabs Iraq will take two steps toward him, President Saddam Husayn declared in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH cited by INA. Calling Egypt's stand on the Iran-Iraq war an "indisputably good" one, Husayn added that Egypt has promptly responded to all of Iraq's requests. He said the current Arab stand on the war augurs well and noted that this is evident by the volunteers from all Arab countries who are stationed on Iraq's border, "despite the fact that some of their heads of state are either overtly or covertly working against Iraq." Husayn declared that if the Egyptian Army comes to Baghdad, Iraq will open its doors for it.

Iran

Approximately 50 members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq were either captured or killed during a series of coordinated operations undertaken by the Tehran prosecutor's office and the Islamic revolution committees, according to a statement by the prosecutor's office carried by Tehran radio.

Lebanon

Bomb Explosions -- At least 12 people were killed when a car bomb exploded outside the French Embassy in western Beirut early on 24 May, AFP reported. The dead include a French paratrooper and a number of people who had been lining up for visas. An anonymous telephone caller told AFP that the "Holy War" organization is responsible for all explosions that have taken place and will take place to avenge the murder of its people in Tripoli and southern Beirut.

Earlier, Beirut radio reported that 10 people had been killed and 25 injured by 3 bomb explosions in western Beirut on 21 May. Cairo radio said the Front for the Liberation of Lebanon From Foreigners claimed responsibility for the explosions that struck targets associated with late Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir.

Draper Mission, Situation in South -- U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Morris Draper met with Lebanese officials in Beirut on 21 May, Beirut radio noted. In remarks broadcast by the radio after his meeting with Draper, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said the discussions had covered the general situation in the area, particularly various interpretations of the cease-fire. Al-Wazzan also revealed that UNIFIL had informed the Lebanese Government of a reduction in Israeli forces along the Lebanese border. However, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported extensive Israeli military maneuvers in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon 19-20 May and subsequently claimed that the IDF had strengthened positions in Bint Jubayl with tanks, artillery and radar.

Draper subsequently met with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus and then arrived in Jordan, where he held talks on the Lebanese situation with King Husayn, according to reports by Damascus radio and Amman television.

Political/Security Affairs -- At a meeting in Damascus, the Higher Coordination Committee decided to implement new security measures soon in Beirut, Sidon, Tripoli and elsewhere, Beirut radio reported. The committee, which comprises Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian representatives, agreed to close all armed offices in the national areas, to prevent the carrying of arms outside Palestinian camps except in urgent cases requiring the confrontation of Israeli attacks and to hand over security tasks to Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces and internal security forces. Meanwhile, in an interview with MONDAY MORNING, Amal movement leader Nabih Birri revealed that during recent factional clashes in Lebanon, the Syrians warned Amal, the Nationalist Movement and the PLO that if the fighting were to continue, Syria would withdraw Arab Deterrent Forces from Beirut and other conflict areas. Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas visited Arab Deterrent Forces units near Tripoli on 23 May and subsequently met with former President Sulayman Franjiyah in Zgharta, according to reports by Damascus and Beirut radios.

Meanwhile, the Nationalist Movement announced its decision to unite all its parties and factions into a single front, Voice of Palestine radio reported.

Israel

If the United States decides to provide "Jordan-Iraq," the enemies of Israel, with sophisticated weapons it will endanger Israeli security, Prime Minister Menahem Begin said in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio on 24 May. During the 23 May Cabinet meeting, Begin described as misleading U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's announcement that the United States must supply advanced weapons to Jordan because the Jordanians are pressured between Syria and Iran, the radio said. Begin asserted that the real cause for the Jordanian request for U.S. weapons is neither Syria nor Iran, but Israel. Dismissing the "lip service" the United States pays to upholding Israeli military superiority, Begin said the supply of modern Soviet weapons and of the speediest and most sophisticated U.S. weapons to Jordan poses a direct and immediate danger to Israel. Israel is launching an information campaign against the sale of sophisticated U.S. arms to Jordan, according to a related radio report.

Jordan

Consultative Council President Sulayman 'Arar will visit the Soviet Union on 24 May, AFP reported citing informed sources in Amman. Meanwhile, the Paris magazine AL-MUSTAQBAL said King Husayn's forthcoming visit to the USSR has been postponed because of the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war.

Egypt

Agreement With Jordan -- Egypt will increase the number of its diplomats in the Egyptian interests mission in Amman, and Jordan will likewise increase its staff at the Jordanian mission in Cairo, MENA reported citing the weekly paper MAY. MAY also noted that some other Arab states are contacting the Egyptian Foreign Ministry regarding an increase in their diplomatic staffs in Egypt.

Al-Baz Interview -- Egypt is working to reactivate the autonomy talks, although no agreement has been reached on a date for resuming the talks or on their venue, Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz stated in an interview with Egyptian journalists following a meeting between President Husni Mubarak and his advisers, MENA reported. Asked about the steps taken to give impetus to the talks, Al-Baz said the subject was discussed at the meeting in light of recent contacts and the conclusion of the mission of U.S. Middle East envoy Richard Fairbanks. Al-Baz noted that the Iran-Iraq war and possible trends in the coming weeks were also discussed at the meeting. He said Egypt is studying all political and military aspects of the war and is watching developments closely in view of Egypt's concern for the strategic security of the Arab nation.

Mubarak Remarks -- There is a big gap between Egypt and Israel on the autonomy talks, but Egypt must continue to pursue them to the end of the course, President Mubarak said during a meeting with Egyptian journalists on 23 May, MENA reported. Regarding speculation about the convening of an Arab summit to which Egypt would be invited, Mubarak said Egypt will not participate in any Arab summit conference unless there is a common background and sound diplomatic relations between Egypt and the Arabs. Commenting on domestic issues, Mubarak declared that the National Democratic Party would "witness certain changes in the next few days."

Bahrain

The High Court of Appeals in Bahrain sentenced 73 defendants accused of involvement in a sabotage network that was uncovered in Bahrain in 1981, WAKH reported. Three of the accused received life sentences while the remaining 70 defendants received sentences of 15 years or less. The defendants belonged to a Tehran-based organization called the "Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain," the Saudi paper AL-YAWM reported. The paper noted previous reports that the accused had been trained in sabotage camps in Iran. The Iranian news agency IRNA reported the sentencing of the defendants without comment.

Libya

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in a statement carried by Voice of Arab Homeland radio, called on Muslims everywhere to liberate the holy mosque in Mecca and the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. He also called for placing Mecca and Al-Madinah under an Islamic administration comprised of all Islamic nations. Al-Qadhdhafi asserted that it is not permissible for the holy mosque to remain under the political control of one country. He urged action be undertaken immediately to end Saudi political domination of the mosque, even if this must be accomplished through a jihad.

Steadfastness and Confrontation Front

The foreign ministers of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front will meet in Algiers on 24 May, Algiers radio reported.

Arab Relations With Zaire

Libya has decided to close its people's bureau in Zaire because of the decision by the Zairian regime to reestablish relations with Israel, Voice of Arab Homeland radio reported. According to a WAKH report, the UAE has also decided to sever its relations with Zaire. Iran announced that it had recalled its charge d'affaires in Zaire to protest Zaire's "hostile act" of restoring relations with Israel, Tehran radio reported citing a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO'S 'ARAFAT PAYS 3-DAY VISIT TO NEW DELHI

Talks With Gandhi, Reddy

BK211610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 May 82

[Text] Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat today apprised Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi about the situation in West Asia. He also gave her his assessment of the Israeli action and intentions and the continuing Iran-Iraq war. He met Mrs. Gandhi shortly after his arrival in New Delhi on a 3-day state visit to the country. 'Arafat was with the prime minister for about 75 minutes. He also called on President Reddy.

During the official-level talks between the PLO and the Indian delegations, the need for a better cooperation between India and the Arab world was underlined. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that during the official-level talks the two sides expressed deep concern at the continuing Iran-Iraq conflict. The PLO representatives expressed their happiness at the positive outcome of Mrs Gandhi's visit to Saudi Arabia.

VOP Report

NC220820 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 22 May 82

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is continuing his official visit to India. A second round of talks will begin today between a Palestinian delegation led by Brother Abu 'Ammar and an Indian delegation led by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to continue discussions on the topics that were dealt with at the meeting which was held behind closed doors at midday yesterday.

During yesterday's 90-minute meeting, the Palestinian and Indian sides expressed great concern over the increasing U.S. military strength in the Indian Ocean, the Gulf and the Mediterranean and called on the states concerned to confront this threat to South Asia and the Middle East.

Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar lauded India's efforts within the Nonaligned Movement to put an end to the Iraqi-Iranian war. Both sides expressed concern over this dispute and called for the need for the Good Offices Committee to resume its efforts to stop the war between the two countries.

Afterward, Brother Abu 'Ammar visited the Indian Foreign Ministry, where he met with Minister of External Affairs Narasimha Rao. An official source has said that the talks were thorough and that they dealt with all aspects of the current situation in the Middle East.

Yesterday afternoon, Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar and his delegation met with Indian President Sanjiva Reddy. Discussions centered on current Arab and international developments and on several issues of mutual interest.

Last night, Mrs Indira Gandhi gave a dinner in honor of Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar and his delegation. During the dinner, Mrs Gandhi affirmed the support of India and the nonaligned countries for the just struggle of the Palestinian people to restore their usurped rights. She opined that the visit of Brother Abu 'Ammar, who represents a people who are aspiring for freedom, is a key factor for strengthening Indian-Palestinian friendship and Indian-Arab friendship.

Banquet Speeches

BK220728 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 May 82

[Text] India and the Palestine Liberation Organization have voiced their concern over the increasing arms induction in the Asian region, creating an atmosphere of insecurity in the area. At a banquet in honor of the visiting PLO chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, in New Delhi last night, the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, and the PLO leader agreed on the need for the countries in the region to come together to face the threats. Mrs Gandhi said the big powers are using the Iran-Iraq war and the unresolved West Asia crisis as convenient excuses.

The PLO chairman criticized the United States for its West Asia policy which he said was helping Israel in its continued aggression against the Palestinians.

AFP Report

BK220126 Hong Kong AFP in English 0018 GMT 22 May 82

[Text] New Delhi, 21 May (AFP) -- Prime Minister Indira Gandhi tonight voiced India's concern over the large scale induction of armaments and increased foreign pressures in the entire Asian region by super powers using political developments and unresolved crises as convenient excuses.

Speaking at a banquet she (?hosted) in honour of visiting Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Mrs Gandhi said such actions were not conducive to security but added to insecurity by encouraging suspicion and confrontation.

Greeting Mr 'Arafat as the "symbol of a people afire with the spirit of freedom" and as a "gallant fighter for a just cause," Mrs Gandhi said the plight of the Palestinian people "constitutes a challenge to human dignity." She expressed India's strong opposition to the "organised repression" of the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank. Mrs Gandhi said that support to the Palestine cause was a plank of India's foreign policy. India and the entire Non-aligned Movement had supported the PLO's heroic fight. The denial of the rights of any people, she indicated, was an affront to the rights of all others.

The prime minister described the PLO leader's visit as a major event in the growth of Indo-Palestinian and Indo-Arab freindship -- "a friendship which we value and want to nurture and which we are determined to expand."

In reply, Mr 'Arafat pointed out that the U.S. policy in the region is the "most dangerous challenge." He accused the United States of continuous attempts to "pull back the world" to the period of "military pacts." He also said that the U.S. policy found its "concrete expression" through total adoption of the Zionist policy of occupation of Palestinian homeland and continuous aggression against Palestinian people and the Arab nations.

The PLO leader called for sincere efforts to consolidate with important role of the Non-aligned Movement in defence of peoples' interest and their just cause.

Honorary Degree

BK230803 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 May 82

[Text] Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat has said the Nonaligned Movement is needed now more than ever before to avoid global conflicts and to resolve disputes among its member countries. He was speaking in Hyderabad yesterday after receiving the honorary degree of doctor of laws at the Usmania University in special convocation.

'Arafat called for an end to the arms race and said it has not only resulted in offsetting the regional balance but also widening the gap between the rich and the poor nations. 'Arafat emphasized the need for greater cooperation between India and the Arab world.

Press Conference

BK230903 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 May 82

[Text] Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat today thanked the people of India and Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi for all their help. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, 'Arafat expressed gratitude for the strong and firm stand taken by India in support of the Palestinian movement.

He said India and the PLO, as members of the Coordinating Bureau of the nonaligned, are working hard for the nonaligned cause. He said the Iran-Iraq war is not only bad for West Asia but also for the Nonaligned Movement. The PLO and India are trying their best through the good-will mission to solve the conflict, he added.

Asked whether he will discuss Indo-Pak relations during his forthcoming talks with Pakistan President Gen Zia, 'Arafat said he is not here as a mediator. However, he will discuss some issues concerning the nonaligned summit with him.

'Arafat said it was an honor to receive the degree of doctorate of law conferred by the Usmania University.

Describing the Camp David agreement as a conspiracy, he said the United States is refusing to realize the realities by denying the Palestinians their right of self-determination.

Departs for Islamabad

BK231421 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 23 May 82

[Text] The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization was given an affectionate and ceremonial sendoff when he left New Delhi for Islamabad this evening after a 3-day visit. Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi, several of her Cabinet colleagues and heads of diplomatic missions were present at the airport to bid him farewell.

The PLO chief inspected an interservices guard of honor before boarding a special aircraft.

Joint Communique Issued

BK231425 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 23 May 82

[Text] India has reiterated that its doors will be kept open for continuing the dialogue with Pakistan on the proposal for a no-war pact of friendship treaty. The joint communique issued at the end of PLO Chief 'Arafat's 3-day official visit to India says this assurance was given by the prime minister to him.

The communique said 'Arafat has expressed his appreciation of India's policy of promoting friendly relations with Pakistan.

The two sides expressed deep concern over continued Israeli aggression against Palestinian people in the occupied territories. It reiterated that a comprehensive settlement of the West Asian problem can be achieved only on the basis of complete withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab and Palestinian lands, including Jerusalem.

'Arafat expressed deep appreciation of India's consistent support for the Arab and Palestinian cause.

On the continuing Iran-Iraq war, the PLO called upon the two warring nations to resolve their differences peacefully and immediately.

UPCOMING GANDHI VISITS TO U.S., USSR ANNOUNCED

BK221605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 May 82

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi will be visiting the United States at the end of July and the Soviet Union in September. She will have talks with President Reagan on 29 July in Washington where she is scheduled to be on the 30th as well.

The exact dates of her Soviet visit have not yet been finalized. Details of Mrs Gandhi's U.S. program are being worked out.

The prime minister's visits to the two superpowers were officially announced in New Delhi today. Her visits to Denmark, Norway and Finland, which were to have taken place next month are being rescheduled at India's request. Fresh dates are being fixed through diplomatic channels.

Mrs Gandhi's official visit to the United States, which is at the invitation of President Reagan, is expected to last 4 to 5 days. Besides Washington, she will go to New York and some other places as well where she is likely to have a number of engagements.

Mrs Gandhi will discuss with President Reagan the entire range of bilateral relations and other matters of mutual interest. This will be their second meeting. The two leaders first met at the Cancun summit last October.

Mrs Gandhi last visited the United States in 1971 at the time of the Bangladesh crisis when Nixon was the president.

During her visit to Moscow in September, Mrs Gandhi will have discussions with President Brezhnev and other Soviet leaders. Her last official visit to the Soviet Union was in 1976.

SATHE LEAVES FOR TASHKENT, LONDON, U.S., JAPAN

BK221419 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 22 May 82

[Excerpts] Information and Broadcasting Minister Vasant Sathe left New Delhi today for the Soviet Union to attend the international film festival beginning in Tashkent on Monday [24 May]. Sathe will be the guest of honor at the inauguration of the festival.

Sathe's 20-day tour will also take him to London, Washington and Tokyo.

RAO LEAVES ON 2-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO DACCA

BK220938 Delhi Domestic Serivce in English 0830 GMT 22 May 82

[Text] External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao left New Delhi this morning for Dacca on a 2-day official visit. Rao will discuss with Bangladesh leaders various bilateral matters including the question of the Farakka agreement. He is visiting Dacca at the invitation of General Ershad, the chief martial law administrator of Bangladesh who is also holding the portfolio of foreign affairs.

This is the first time that an Indian minister is visiting that country after General Ershad assumed power in March last. He is accompanied by a top-level official delegation.

GOVERNMENT SEEKING ELECTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL

BK221029 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 22 May 82

[Excerpt] Pakistan is seeking election to the UN Security Council for the term beginning from 1 January next. The election would take place at the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly for the seat to be vacated by Japan. So far the other candidate in the field is Sri Lanka.

Informed sources said in Islamabad today that Pakistan has received a favorable response for its candidature. It was expected that it would have overwhelming endorsement of the Arab and other Islamic countries.

HAQ LAUDS PRC AID IN FACTORY CONSTRUCTION

GF211225 Karachi DAWN in English 19 May 82 p 1

[Excerpt] Peshawar, May 18 -- President Mohammad Ziaul Haq today lauded Chinese co-operation and assistance in the establishment of the Rs. 10.40 crore sheet glass factory near Nowshra, and termed it a living symbol of friendship between Pakistan and the People's Republic of China.

Speaking at the inauguration of the factory, the president said that Pakistan and China had a "model" friendship which had established new standards in the international relationship.

He expressed confidence that these ties between the two countries would further expand with the passage of time.

He expressed his appreciation for the warm sentiments of friendship expressed by the Chinese charge d'affaires in Pakistan in his address at the function earlier, and said that the people of Pakistan took these sentiments in a positive manner, because those were based on sincerity.

He also lauded the co-operation extended by China in the setting up of the factory and in the installation of the machinery by experts from the great neighbour.

The president hoped that the factory, established by the national police foundation, would be run on commercial basis and would play a vital role for the welfare of the retired and serving police personnel and their families.

The president noted with satisfaction that the factory, which was the biggest glass unit in the country, would help save foreign exchange, now spent on the import of sheet glass. It would provide employment opportunities to the people and would thus augur well for the national economy, he said.

MARTIAL LAW ORDER ON SPECIAL MILITARY COURTS

BK231535 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 May 82

[Text] The Sind martial law administrator has promulgated Martial Law Order 173 which provides for the setting up of special and summary military courts or reorganization of the special and summary military courts set up under Martial Law Orders 145 and 166.

NEW OFFENSIVE LAUNCHED IN KHORRAMSHAHR REGION

Joint Staff Communique 915

LD211744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 May 82

[Communique No 915 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. As the dear compatriots are informed, during the past few days fighting and exchange of fire has continued intensely in the Jersusalem Operation [bayt al-moqaddas] regions. The powerful combatants of Islam have bravely and with force foiled all the futile efforts of the Iraqi forces. By crushing the forces of blasphemy and dealing effective blows on them our forces have achieved considerable victories and have total control of the region. The Saddamist mercenaries have been forced to flee and leave their positions after each effort, having suffered heavy losses and casualties and some being captured.

During the past 24 hours, fighting and exchange of fire continued sporadically in Salehabad, Sumar, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Gilan-e Gharb. According to reports, the losses and damage suffered by the enemy include the destruction of one of their ammunition depots and several trenches and foxholes, together with the respective crews.

On the Marivan front, the exchange of artillery and heavy-weapon fire continued between our p erful forces and the Saddamist mercenaries.

The combatants of Islam crushed enemy positions in Biarreh and (?Khorman), halted enemy activities, destroyed several foxholes and trenches, observation posts and a helicopter pad belonging to the Saddamists. Our forces inflicted considerable damage and casualties on the enemy. We have no precise information regarding the number of enemy dead and wounded except for one region in which, as reports indicate, the number of casualties is 10 soldiers. On the [name indistinct] front a series of surprise attacks and strikes by our forces resulted in the death or injury of a number of enemy forces.

Gendarmerie forces on the Sheykhan, Nowsud and Shur-e Shirin fronts returned enemy fire, succeeded in silencing their fire and inflicted casualties on the Saddamist forces.

On the Abadan front, the gendarmerie combatants opened fire on enemy positions and destroyed 9 heavy- and light-weapon emplacements and 2 construction vehicles, and halted the Iraqi Ba'thist forces' vehicular traffic on the Al-Faw-Basrah road, killing 20 blasphemous soldiers.

The warriors of the navy on the Khorramshahr front opened fire on Saddamist positions in the occupied part of Khorramshahr, destroying two observation posts and three heavy-weapon emplacements of the Iraqi forces and killing or wounding a number of their personnel.

During the past 24 hours, residential areas in the city of Abadan came under enemy artillery fire.

Yesterday a number of aggressive Iraqi planes which intended to violate the airspace of several southern and western border towns of the country were forced to flee by the antiaircraft defense units of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Joint Staff Communique 916

LD221758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 May 82

[Communique No 916 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Fighting on the fronts of the battle between right and wrong is the greatest prayer by any person. The powerful combatants of Islam, these fulfilled lovers and selfless wayfarers, have answered the call of their great imam. Relying on the power of faith and their own steadfastness, they are carrying out this religious duty, this war against the enemies of Islam, and will continue their battle until the enemies' complete destruction. A part of the efforts of the forces of Islam during the past 24 hours are hereby brought to your attention:

Yesterday, in the operative regions of the Jerusalem Operation [bayt al-moqaddas] an exchange of fire continued and our combative units consolidated and fortified their positions while defending the territory under their control. Using their heavy-weapon fire, our forces prevented the movement of Saddamist forces. The combatants of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire on enemy positions in the occupied parts of Khorramshahr and on the banks of Arvand Rud destroying eight entrenchments and three observation posts of the enemy while killing and wounding a number of Saddam's soldiers.

The courageous personnel of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire on Saddamist positions and set fire to several points in Ziyadiyah inside Iraq, destroying 3 observation posts, 2 construction vehicles and 2 entrenchments of the Iraqi forces while killing more than 20 Saddamists.

Yesterday a number of our dear Abadani compatriots were martyred or wounded by the heavy-weapon fire of Saddam's army. Also, several residential houses were destroyed in this city.

In Meymak, Salehabad, Sumar, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Gilan-e Gharb, exchanges of fire continued sporadically. Due to our forces' fire, three tanks, one ammunition depot, several combat supply depots, one digging vehicle and a number of entrenchments of the enemy were set on fire and destroyed and their artillery fire was silenced. Exchanges of fire on the Sheykhan and Nowsud fronts continued and as a result one mortar and several supply points of the Saddamists were destroyed and several Saddamists were killed or wounded. Our artillery and mortar fire demolished the enemy headquarters building in Toveyleh. Our combatants also opened fire on enemy positions in Panjwin, destroying five entrenchments and killing their personnel.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Operation in Iraq

LD221714 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 May 82

[Text] Islamic combatants and Iraqi mujahidin took control of Halabcheh in Iraq for a certain period. According to an IRNA correspondent, members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Javanrud, enjoying the cooperation of our Iraqi mujahidin brethren, launched a penetrating operation inside Iraq and entered Halabcheh. The brave combatants damaged the Ba'thist army information and security organization building as well as the governor's office. They also killed or wounded a number of Saddam's security forces.

The same report adds that the alert and Muslim inhabitants of Halabcheh gave full support to the Islamic fighters during these operations and then staged widescale demonstrations in the town in their support.

The IRNA report further adds that during the second stage of these operations the Iraqi [name indistinct] garrison was raided by the Islamic fighters; six Iraqis were either killed or wounded. Our fighters returned safely to their base.

POW's Transferred to Tehran

LD221100 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 May 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that another 325 Iraqi POW's were transferred from Ahvaz to Tehran today. Most of the Iraqi POW's arriving in Tehran today are Iraqi officers and NCO's. Since the start of the Jerusalem Operation 5,000 Iraqi POW's have been transferred to Tehran's various camps.

Medical Staff Needed

GF231205 Bandar-e 'Abbas Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 22 May 82

[Text] The joint headquarters for first aid and donations for battlefronts in Hormozgan Province has announced that the southern fronts need the cooperation of doctors, nurses and brother first aid volunteers. Those interested in being dispatched to the front should report to this headquarters on Imam Khomeyni Avenue near the city park.

Forces Approach Khorramshahr

GF230740 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 May 82

[Excerpt] We have received the following from the Karbala' operations headquarters in the south:

At 2230 yesterday and under the codename of Ya Mohammad ibn 'Abdollah, the fourth stage of the Jerusalem Operation [bayt al-moqaddas] was initiated. As they advanced toward the center of Khorramshahr, the Islamic forces liberated other sensitive regions of the Islamic homeland, thus tightening the grip of its seige around Khorramshahr. The Islamic forces are in full control of the Khorramshahr-Shalamcheh and Khorramshahr-Ahvaz-(Al-Muhaymin) highways. The defenders of the Islamic revolution also cut off all waterways in front of the Saddamist aggressors and took complete control over the new bridge of Pol-e Now.

In this way all means of retreat have been blocked before Saddam's forces, and the Iraqi Army is completely besieged by the soldiers of Islam.

Since the early hours of this morning, the victorious Islamic forces have continued their rapid advance toward Khorramshahr and have succeeded in crossing beyond the village of Vali-e 'Asr and Khorramshahr public reservoirs and have imposed a full siege around the Iraqi forces.

With this successful attack and during the operations carried by Islam's soldiers in the Kushk axis yesterday evening, they were able to destroy 35 tanks belonging to Saddam's aggressive army in addition to inflicting heavy losses in life on the Iraqi aggressors.

God is great, God is great, God is great.

Joint Communique 24

GF230745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0719 GMT 23 May 82

[Joint Communique No 24 of the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Excerpts] Muslim and combatant nation, heroic Iranian people: In continuation of the third phase of victorious Jerusalem Operation [bayt al-moqaddas] which began in the capable hands of your pure children in the southern fronts under the command of the central headquarters of Karbala' -- the headquarters of operations of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps -- and has so far led to the liberation of occupied areas and important strategic bases of our Islamic homeland to the extent of over 4,500 square km, in continuation of the all-out third phase of the Jerusalem operation, the self-sacrificing forces of Islam last night at 2230 began their attack under the codename Ya Mohammad ibn 'Abdollah on the orders of the central command of Karbala', chanting "God is great" and "There is no god but God."

In these operations, which were carried out in order to destroy enemy forces and cleanse the area in the border region of Kushk in western Khuzestan and the west and northwestern regions of Khorramshahr and to reach predetermined targets, the Islamic braves were able to break enemy lines in the first hours of attack and inflict heavy casualties against the deceived mercenaries of Saddam's army.

The capable braves of Islam, the armed nobles and entrenched devouts are now engaged in a heavy clash with the aggressors of the Zionist Iraqi regime in the southern part of the holy soil of Khuzestan and are inflicting heavy casualties and damage on the aggressive enemy.

The infidel-fighting braves of the victorious army of Islam have either killed or wounded a considerable number of the Saddamist aggressors and have destroyed a considerable number of armored vehicles, tanks and personnel carriers. They have also captured some equipment. A large number of the deceived Ba'thist forces have been captured by our capable braves.

The news of the victories of our sacrificing braves will be carried in future communiques for the information of you, victorious nation. In the hope of the final victory of Islam's braves and the liberation of Jerusalem from the claws of the occupying Zionism. With the assistance of God, victory is at hand.

[Signed] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Khorramshahr Surrounded

LD230856 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0815 GMT 23 May 82

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners: Please pay attention to a report just received:

Khorramshahr [Khuninshahr] is completely surrounded in the third phase of the Jerusalem Operation [bayt al-moqaddas] and now the combatants of Islam are consolidating the liberated positions in this region.

According to the report received from Karbala' headquarters, Pol-e Now, situated 5 km to the west of Khuninshahr on the road between Khuninshahr and Shalamcheh has come under the control of the corps of Islam. In addition to consolidating their positions, our combatants continue their efforts to capture the southern part of the road reaching Shatt al-'Arab.

This morning, the combatants of the Islamic revolution have, in the continuation of their operations codenamed Ya Mohammad ibn 'Abdollah, smashed the enemy in his fortified positions. The road between Pol-e Now and Shalamcheh is under the control of the corps of Islam and Khuninshahr is completely surrounded.

Joint Communique 25

LD231340 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 May 82

[Joint communique No 25 of the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Oh brave combatants of Islam, glory be your victory. Oh you who sacrifice yourselves for the path of Mohammad ibn 'Abdollah, the prayers of our imam, Ruhollah Khomeyni and our Hoseyni nation be with you. Oh those who go toward Jerusalem, God's blessings on your relentless struggle. While relying on the endless divine powers and seeking the assistance of the auspicious prophet and the founder of the world Islamic revolution, you are bent on bringing the glad tidings of the weakness and destruction of world oppression and its bankrupt agents to all the world Muslims and oppressed people. Oh brave and combative nation of Islam; Oh victorious and patient nation of Iran. In continuation of the third phase of the Jerusalem Operation [bayt al-moqaddas], which started last night with the codename Ya Mohammad ibn 'Abdollah, with reliance on the great God and His assistance, and with the backing of prayers of the dear imam of the nation, the great Khomeyni, and our ever-wakeful and martyr-nurturing nation, the combatants of the forces of Islam are advancing and dealing horrific blows to the dying forces of Saddam, that Zionist agent.

Oh combative nation: The victorious forces of Islam captured the border garrison of Kushk in the Kushk region at 0230; they also totally destroyed or captured the enemy forces in that region. They destroyed more than 35 enemy tanks and armored personnel carriers and set alight a large ammunition dump of the Saddamites.

In the west and northwest of Khuninshahr, after crushing the enemy's first, second and third defensive lines, the triumphant forces of Islam continued advancing; at 0415 this morning they captured the important communication and strategic bridge Pol-e Now [New Bridge] over the (Arajez) River and by completely consolidating their positions they were able to crush any feeble enemy attempts.

At 1048, 1117 and 1159 today, three aggressive aircraft of the aggressive Iraqi Army were downed by the fast flyers and antiaircraft units of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Abadan and Khuninshahr sectors.

The forces of Islam, while shouting "God is great," enjoyed artillery support and were able to inflict very heavy casualties on the 9th Brigade of the border guards, the 10th Brigade of the border guards, the 33d Brigade of the special forces and the 238th Brigade of the border guards, destroying military equipment, killing a large number of the enemy and capturing many of them.

According to the latest statistics, so far 1,264 of the Saddamite deceived ones have been transferred behind the fronts. Among the POW's are many high-ranking officers of the Ba'thist, Zionist Iraqi Army.

The names of some of the high-ranking officers are as follows:

1. Lt Col (Riaz 'Abdolrahman Hasan), deputy commander of the 10th Brigade of the border guards.

2. Lt Col (Yusof Ahmad Jasem), commander of 165th Battalion of 10th Brigade of the border guards.

3. Lt Col ('Abdolrahman 'Abbas Husayni), commander of the 2d Battalion of the 238th Brigade of the border guards.

4. Lt Col ('Abdolhamid Mohammad Halid), commander of the 178th Batallion of the 10th Brigade of the border guards.

5. Maj Ahmad Mohamaad Husayn, of the 3d Battalion of the 22d Brigade.

6. Maj (Amjad 'Abdolqadir Esma'i), commander of the 10th Battalion of the 33d Brigade of the special forces.

7. Maj (Qasim Sulayman Yahya), commander of the 179th Battalion of the 10th Brigade of the border guards, and dozens of other captured officers.

Now the remnants of the disintegrating and deceived army of Saddam should know -- more than any other time -- and should have reached the conclusion that the outcome of its resistance and fight against the right-seeking forces of Islam will be nothing but death and destruction.

Once again we ask Iraqi soldiers to return to the bosom of Islam, before it is too late, and join the committed and pious forces of the Islamic Republic, and no longer aid the evil, Zionist aims of the traitor Saddam and his American masters.

With hope for final victory of the combatants of Islam and the liberation of Jerusalem from occupying Zionism. With the assistance of God, victory is near.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Forces Reach Arvand Rud

LD231256 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1219 GMT 23 May 82

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, attention: The combatants of Islam have achieved ablution in the waters of the Arvand Rud.

According to the latest report received from the central Karbala' garrison, the command headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the victorious combatants of Islam, reached the important and strategic Pol-e Now, captured it, and were thus able to move toward the Shatt al-'Arab [as heard]. They reached it, and after routing the deceived Ba'thist forces, they achieved ablution in its waters.

With the establishment of the forces of Islam on the banks of the Arvand Rud, the siege of Khorramshahr, that city of blood and martyrdom, has been completed and the aggressive and deceived Iraqi forces in that sector are completely surrounded by the forces of Islam. According to the latest reports, the victorious forces of Islam have captured many Iraqi soldiers inside the besieged areas.

With the assistance of God, victory is nigh.

Joint Staff Communique 919

LD231834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 82

[Communique No 919 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Dear compatriots: On the other fronts [as heard] of the imposed war the combatants of Islam bravely continue their battle to destroy the Saddamist aggressors; the results of this are brought to your attention:

Sporadic fighting and exchanges of fire continued yesterday on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Gilan-e Gharb, Sumar and Salehabad fronts. As a result of the powerful fire of the ground forces' artillery, which enjoyed superiority in the area all the time, several supply points, foxholes and slit trenches of the Saddamists were destroyed and a number of the servicemen of the aggressive Iraqi Army were killed.

The brave combatants of the irregular tribal warfare units continue to bravely guard their defensive positions and areas and to return the enemy fire and have robbed the enemy of any movement.

In the Paveh area the enemy positions on the border came under heavy fire from the combatants of Islam and several light- and heavy-weapon emplacements and vehicles were destroyed and a number of the Saddamist forces were killed. Considerable losses and casualties were inflicted on the enemy positions and servicemen in the Tutman area in Iraq.

On the Abadan fronts the heroes of the gendarmerie continually pounded the positions of the Saddamist mercenaries and killed or wounded more than 20 of the forces of blasphemy and destroyed a number of their positions.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Total of 7,774 Captured

LD231744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 82

[Text] Please pay attention to a report just handed to us: Reports by IRNA correspondents, citing the Karbala' central headquarters, indicate that up to 1703 today a further 2,650 of the misled Saddamists captured by the army of Islam during the third phase of the victorious Jerusalem Operation [bayt al-moqaddas] have been transferred behind the frontlines and that the evacuation of POW's is continuing.

Based on the reports, with the evacuation of these POW's, the number of Iraqi forces taken prisoner by the forces of Islam in the Jerusalem Operation has now reached 7,774.

Joint Communique 26

LD241052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0910 GMT 24 May 82

[Joint Communique No 26 of the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The message of the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Iraqi soldiers is as follows:

To the duped military personnel of the Iraqi Army: This is a message from the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran which is being conveyed to you. Our dear Khorramshahr is at present completely surrounded by the forces of Islam and the powerful forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have formed a ring around the city of Khorramshahr, this city of blood and martyrdom.

The brave and courageous forces defending the Islamic revolution have now taken their positions on the eastern side of the Shatt al-'Arab in full strength. All the roads entering the city, including the important and strategic Khorramshahr-Ahvaz and Khorramshahr-Shalamcheh roads, have been cleared of the filthy presence of Ba'thist mercenaries by the powerful army of Islam and the entire region is now in the hands of the combatants of Islam.

You, the soldiers of the aggressive army of Iraq stationed in Khorramshahr, your resistance to and stance against the faithful forces of Islam is useless. Resistance and confrontation with the soldiers of the army of God will not result in anything but annihilation and death.

You can surrender to the forces of Islam in any way you choose, for example by raising a white flag. You can be sure that you will be sheltered in the secure shadow of Islam.

You are hereby informed that Col Ahmad (Zeydan), who commanded the aggressive Iraqi forces in Khorramshahr, was killed by the strong hands of the combatants of Islam last night and this is our message asking you to surrender to your Muslim brothers and save yourselves from certain death and annihilation. You are now completely surrounded by the combatants of Islam. Give yourselves up to our victorious forces and refuse to remain a slave of the Zionist Saddam's whims and to the false promises of his American bosses. Take shelter with the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran so that, side by side, we can fight against the common enemy of all the Muslims and the oppressed of the world, namely, the great Satan America and the occupying regime in Jerusalem. You, the military personnel of the aggressive Iraqi Army who have been surrounded in Khorramshahr, if you want to stay alive rather than be annihilated, surrender to the victorious forces of Islam and from [words indistinct] in this world and the next.

It is necessary to mention that up to now a large number of the duped military personnel of Iraq have surrendered to the victorious forces of Islam and have sought asylum in the shelter of the Islamic Republic. Among these people there are a number of officers from the Iraqi Army, including Maj (Mahmud Hemad Mohammad), the commander of the Iraqi Defa' al-Vajibat Battalion, and Maj Sahib 'Abd al-Reza Kazim, the commander of the 3d Company of the Defa' al-Vajibat Battalion.

Hoping for the final victory of the combatants of Islam and the liberation of Jerusalem from the claws of occupying Zionism, seek assistance from God and victory is at hand.

[Signed] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Iraqis Surrendering

GF240945 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 0938 GMT 24 May 82

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpts] According to a report which our correspondent sent up from the Khorramshahr train station, the remainder of Saddam's army is surrendering in groups to the victorious forces of Islam. The suicidal enemy resistance is diminishing.

Great nation: Great moments, destiny-making moments are at hand. Pray wherever you are. Ask for the final victory of the forces of Islam from the Almighty.

Troops Enter Khorramshahr

LD241112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 May 82

[Excerpts] According to a report from Qareh Bolagh issued by the Joint Staff and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the mighty Islamic combatants, continuing the third phase of the Jerusalem Operation, having completely beleaguered Khuninshahr and having completely cut off the supply line to the Iraqi aggressors stationed in Khuninshahr, this morning succeeded in liberating the township of Vali-e Asr on the western side of Khuninshahr, thus entering the city from the western route. Intense fighting is presenting going on between the Islamic forces and the remnants of the Iraqi Ba'thist Zionist forces and the enemy positions are being pounded.

So far, 3,000 POW's have been removed to behind the front. Together with those captured yesterday the number of captured prisoners of war exceeds 5,000. Moreover, two Iraqi MIG's were shot down this morning over Abadan by Iranian forces.

KHAMENE'I VIEWS IMPACT OF ISLAMIC VICTORIES

LD232144 Tehran IRNA in English 2009 GMT 23 May 82

[Text] Tehran, 23 May (IRNA) -- The successive victories of the Islamic combatants on the battlefields portend significant economic as well as political effects not only for the Islamic Republic of Iran and the progressive regimes of the region, but also Muslim nations all over the world, said President Khamene'i today. The president added that U.S. imperialism, the major enemy of the Islamic revolution and all its subservient agents, concerned as they were about the victories of the revolution, have been trying to, somehow, obstruct the progress of the Islamic revolution.

On the other hand, he further added, the progresssive regimes in the region as well as the world's Muslim nations, particularly the Muslim nation of Iraq, were celebrating these victories.

Speaking on the economic plots of Iran's enemies, he said that opponents of the Islamic revolution, while pursuing political goals under the cover of economic relations, intended to expand their economic relations with enemies of the Islamic government, thus isolating the Islamic Republic of Iran economically. Referring to recent unsuccessful session of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, the president reaffirmed that all the Persian Gulf countries were not of one political orientation, adding that some of them were realistic and had recognised that taking hostile measures against the Islamic Republic of Iran, a powerful country with 40 million people, was not to their benefit.

Referring to the efforts of world imperialism to misrepresent the Islamic Republic of Iran as a danger threatening the region's countries the president reaffirmed the friendly stands of the Islamic government towards those which sought peaceful relations with Iran.

Talking more on the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, President Khamene'i said that the council's foundation was based on shaky grounds since Iran, having the longest coast along the Persian Gulf, was excluded.

In defending the security of the Persian Gulf and the region, the powerful Islamic country of Iran would play the most significant role, the president added, stressing that Iran was neither seeking war nor coveting any country's territory.

Talking on the aid granted recently to Saddam by the reactionaries of the region, he said that these measures could not change the fate of war any more than had happened in the past. Referring to the Egyptian regime's recently declared support for Iraq in its war against Iran, President Khamene'i called it a move to divert the attentions of Egyptian people from the conciliatory stands of the Egyptian Army in the Iraq-Iran war fronts. The Egyptian regime also sought to regain its honor in Arab world and to return to the Arab fold, but it would be welcomed only by reactionaries among the Arabs, the president added. He also predicted the imminent defeat of all these plots by the uprising of the Arab masses against the reactionary regimes.

Referring to the efforts made by the Foreign Ministry to make the Islamic Republic's foreign policy more dynamic, the president reaffirmed that the Islamic Republic of Iran was trying to seek peaceful relations with all countries which haven't taken hostile measures against it. He insisted this was especially true of the expansion of relations with neighbouring Muslim countries which he referred to as "the policy of establishing peace in the region."

RAFSANJANI ON WAR, GCC, ARAB-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

LD211040 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 21 May 82

[Text] Tehran, 21 may (IRNA) -- Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Thursday that the Persian Gulf states eventually realised that the Islamic Republic was not a threat to their stability and thus they had somewhat changed their attitude towards the Iraq-Iran war.

The hojjat ol-Eslam, who was speaking in an interview with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran (radio-TV) here, said that the Islamic Republic did not mean to maintain the situation in the battlefronts as they were at the present moment but sooner or later would have to bring the war to an end by an all-out offensive.

He said the internal situation in Iraq was unstable but noted that the Islamic Republic could not very much count on instability inside Iraq, but would have to take an initiative to end the war without counting on the potential opposition forces inside Iraq. He said that as time went by, Iran's claims for war damages increased, while on the other Iraq was losing more and more in economic damage in the wake of the Syrian closure of the oil pipeline which conducted Iraq's oil to overseas countries. He said at the time being Iraq was suffering economically since it has access neither to Syria nor to the Persian Gulf for exporting its oil.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Egypt and other reactionary governments such as Jordan, Kuwait, North Yemen and Morocco, and "the governments which are devoted to promoting U.S. interests in the region" have aided the Baghdad regime in its aggression against the Islamic Republic but that "the foreign troops which come to Baghdad's aid in the battlefronts, always turn tail at the first offensive of the Iranian troops" and that this has been a weak point on the part of the enemy army.

The hojjat ol-Eslam said that Saddam Husayn had long turned into a tool in the hands of the United States and that however conscious he might be of his eventual destruction, he was now unable to do anything on his own initiative. Said he: "The United States dictates its own will to Jordan, Egypt and Iraq."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani further said "Iraq has been receiving aid of various kinds; therefore, in all probability Saddam Husayn has not sufficiently enough will power to reverse his course of action, unless they permit him to do so."

The hojjat ol-Eslam dismissed so-called penk [as received] efforts for bringing the Persian Gulf war to its end, as "attempts for maintaining the invading army inside Iranian territories and at the same time projecting the Islamic Republic as an enemy of the Arab nations." He said while the Islamic Republic was receptive to any initiative for ending the war it had to expose the hidden incentives of imperialism for publishing so much propaganda for diverting the attention of the Arab world from the main issue -- the regime occupying Al-Quds -- focusing their attention on Iran.

He said the aim of the foreign powers was to exploit the Iraq-Iran war as an excuse for straying the attention of the Arab world from the Zionist enemy and giving it a little more elbowroom while Iran had decided to exert pressure on Iraq and defeat it in order to prove to the Arab world that the Islamic Republic was their best supporter.

Commenting on the emerging relations between Egypt and the rest of the Arab world, the hojjat ol-Eslam said that in his judgment Egypt had never been (?saved) from the camp which it was going to return. He said ever since the advent of the Camp David accord Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Jordan had entered into an implicit agreement and that throughout the process the three had moved harmoniously towards one and the same goal.

He said as he viewed it the Arab world had not in reality severed its relations with Egypt but that the current move was one for "justifying" their relations, or rather the "[word indistinct] of their relations" with Egypt.

The Majlis speaker reaffirmed that Iran advocated peace but not one at the cost of "giving a perpetual weapon to Israel, the imperialists and the Zionists whereby they might keep forever divided the Arab and the Muslim world as they now are...."

RAFSANJANI: IRANIANS TRUE FRIENDS OF ARABS

LD211406 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 May 82

[Excerpts] On the auspicious and blessed anniversary of the prophetic mission of the great standard bearer of monotheism, the last apostle of God and the great prophet of Islam, His Great Eminence Mohammad ibn 'Abdollah, may God's benedictions and salutations be upon him and his scion, millions of our Muslim compatriots all over the country held the glorious Friday prayers. At the same time Tehran University, this rendezvous of followers of justice and lovers of God, witnessed the great mass of the ever-present people of Tehran taking part in the religious-political ceremonies of Friday prayers, this glorious Mohammadan tradition. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani was the acting Friday imam at Tehran University.

During his second sermon, the acting Friday imam of Tehran referred to the propaganda conspiracies of imperialism and international Zionism against the Islamic revolution of Iran, saying:

[Begin recording] Two different moves are currently taking place throughout the region, directed by the United States and other Westerners. These two different moves are in fact two aspects of one current. One is the attempt to return Egypt superficially to the Arab world. The second is the effort to set Iran against the Arabs.

They are trying to magnify the danger Iran poses to the region and its oil resources in two ways: In Europe, they tell the Europeans that the oil will no longer come and they tell the Arab shaykhs in the region: Iran is provoking your nations against you and you will lose your thrones.

The overall aim is to set Iran -- and in fact Islam and the Islamic Republic -- against the Arabs and their reactionary elements through these two moves, which are in fact one. In fact, the situation is not as they are trying to present it. They are trying to reduce the Arab world's sensitivity toward Israel and transfer it to Iran. And you can see how wickedly they are doing this and how stupid are those who submit to it.

I believe that in the future Iran will be the most important center that can destroy Israel. Anyone who attaches hopes to countries other than Iran is in fact looking at a mirage. Certainly this will be one of our great tasks and Israel and America also know this. They are trying to show that this Iran will be a danger to the Arabs and that Israel is a friend of the Arabs.

How stupid for Egypt and the Arab world to listen to such nonsense. How stupid to see Egypt restore relations with Israel, exchange embassies and become its friend, while Islamic Iran, which kicked out Golda Meir's collaborator, who went to Egypt and died and was buried there, is classed as the enemy of Arabs. These are the forces that want to be with Islam. See how stupid it is, but the loudspeakers are so harsh that some might believe them. It is possible that they might close their minds and open their ears and believe these things.

I believe that Egypt has never been divided from the reactionary Arab world. That is, the day Egypt went for Camp David, all these shaykhs, or perhaps the majority of them, agreed with it. Jordan was in favor, so were Hassan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and some of the shaykhs. They helped it and at the same time pretended they were hostile to it. What sort of hostility is this when you pay it to purchase arms? What kind of break is it when you move along the same front everywhere and make similar remarks, but from two different loudspeakers?

They were looking for an excuse to make friends openly and they found a good excuse. The powerful and revolutionary Iran, which is pushing its enemy out of its own territory by sacrificing the blood of its martyrs, is considered a good enemy. Now they are saying: Come on, let us unite with Egypt and fight against Iran instead of Israel.

This is the most absurd logic, but for a changed person who is rising because he has become rich, it is easy to accept. Some stupid people who have oil and arms accept this logic and start these currents.

We will be proud if a front is formed against us by some stupid people who cannot even understand the positions of Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and North Yemen. It is right to fight against these kinds of people. We must fight against them. We shall not leave them alone even if they give up. We must rid the Islamic world of their atrocities. [shouts from the crowd]

At this point, I clearly say for the umpteenth time that only these kinds of persons should be afraid of the Islamic Republic. The people of Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia must not be afraid. The pious shaykhs of the Persian Gulf should not be afraid. Those who are prepared to join the front of right should not be afraid. If we are tolerating this war, it is because of the stance we adopted in favor of the people of Iraq. If we had shaken hands with Saddam the first day by making friendly gestures and had invited him to visit Iran when he wanted to come, many of them would have spent a similar amount of money on us. We must put up with this war because we refused to sacrifice the interests of the nation of Iraq for the ambitions of the 'Aflaqite Ba'th. We shall put up with a similar war in Palestine for the same reason. If you give up your tricks and wisely join us to fight against Israel and against antipeople individuals, if you stop pouring the wealth of Islam and Muslims into the pockets of the American trusts and if you decide to live independently, then our hand of support will also extend to you and we will be with you. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON CONFRONTATION FRONT

LD232338 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 May 82

[Statement issued on 23 May by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On the eve of the conference of foreign ministers of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran considers it its Islamic duty to remind the countries taking part in this assembly of some points:

1. At a time when, with the increasing conspiracies of American imperialism, the region is facing a bleak prospect and the Zionist enemy is daily strengthening its political and military ties with American imperialism, and when with the signing of aggressive strategic pacts it declares the continuation of its hegemonist policy with a clear voice, the region is witnessing another dimension of the policy of the world-devouring America's policy -- a conspiracy whose materialiation will be considered a victory of the White House's policies in the region and the acceptance of the defeatist and abject Camp David peace by the Arabs and the establishment of the regime occupying Jerusalem.

After betraying the Islamic ideal of the Arabs and sitting at the negotiation table with the Zionist enemy, the treacherous and abject Egyptian regime now intends to return to the Arab world with the help of reactionary governments. In the opinion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Egypt's return to the Arab world would be seen as Arab approval of the occupation of the lands of Islam and of the aggression and crimes committed by the Zionist enemy. It will be considered contrary to the resolution of the 1978 conference of Arab leaders in Baghdad.

2. Husni Mubarak's regime, in implementing its sinister plot, has supported Saddam's government in the aggressive war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is obvious that Egypt's participation in the imposed war, under the pretext of supporting the Arabs against the danger of the Islamic revolution, is a bridge constructed by America to establish communications between the Arab reactionaries and the Husni Mubarak regime and, consequently, the Zionist enemy.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as it has said many times before, believes that America's aim in imposing this war through Saddam is to crush the Islamic revolution. In fact, America ordered Saddam's regime to commit aggression against our Islamic homeland's borders in order to crush the revolution whose strategic aim is the liberation of beloved Al-Quds and the destruction of the Zionist regime and which is chanting the slogan: "Today Iran, tomorrow Palestine."

3. The Islamic Republic of Iran considers it necessary to declare to the steadfastness front member states that Iran is the firmest and the most staunch ally of the Arabs in the struggle against the Zionist enemy, as it has been in the past; therefore, the governments who, under the vain pretext of the danger of the Islamic revolution, try to open the door to America in the sensitive and vital Persian Gulf region, must know that they will suffer a fate identical to that of As-Sadat. Basically, how can the Islamic Republic of Iran -- which at the first opportunity after the overthrow of the defunct shah transformed the Zionist regime's embassy in Tehran into the Palestinian Embassy and closed the oil taps to the regime occupying Jerusalem and the other regimes like it -- be the enemy of the Arabs? And how can the abject Egyptian regime, which in the course of the treacherous Camp David accord embraced the criminal Begin and established treacherous relations with the Zionist enemy, be the friend of the Arabs?

4. Once again we declare that we shall not rest until the complete liberation of occupied lands, in particular beloved Jerusalem, from the paws of Zionism. God willing, with the overthrow of Saddam we shall victoriously march toward beloved Jerusalem, waring the banner "There is no god but God," in order to begin the destiny-making war against the Zionist enemy alongside our Muslim and Arab brothers. "Peace be upon him who follows guidance." [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

MONTAZERI RAPS ATTEMPT TO RESTORE ARAB-EGYPT TIES

LD212246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 May 82

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Unit, the participants in the non-Iranian clerical seminar in Qom met with Ayatollah Montazeri at the end of the seminar today.

Referring to the multidimensional attack by Western and Eastern colonialists against the Islamic revolution of Iran, Ayatollah Montazeri said: It is not only Iraq which is fighting against us; all subservient governments of the region and other parts of the world have declared war against Iran by helping the declining Saddam regime, by providing it with equipment and personnel on American and Zionist orders. However, thank God, epics are being made on the battlefronts every day with the faith, resistance, growth and awareness of our Muslim Iranian brothers and sisters. I assure you that, despite the abundant assistance provided by such countries as Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Kuwait and other mercenary leaders in the Middle East and Europe, Islamic Iran will soon achieve final victory.

Commenting on the new U.S. plot in connection with making Egypt acceptable to the Arab world, a plot being implemented by Saddam, Ayatollah Montazeri declared that any compromise with Egypt in reality amounts to a compromise with Israel.

He continued: We warn all those who, on America's orders, are engaged in hatching plots against the Islamic revolution of Iran that if they fail to abandon their provocations and crimes, such as the attempt to return the Zionist Egyptian regime to the Arab fold, the supporters of Islam throughout the world will not remain silent. Under such circumstances, having sought permission from the imam of the nation, we shall be forced to call on them to confront and crush these plots.

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